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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ISLE OF AXHOLME

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1954

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ISLE OF AXHOLME
1954

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor F. W. Clark, J.P. (Crowle).

Vice-Chairman of the Council:
Councillor H. R. O. Chipp (Haxey)

Health Committee:
Councillor G. F. Stones (Althorpe).
Councillor W. Mills (Amcotts).
Councillor H. W. Clark (Belton).
Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).
Councillor Mrs. E. N. Johnson, J.P. (Belton).
Councillor A. Axe (Crowle).
Councillor R. Wainwright (Crowle).
Councillor J. T. C. Holliday (Crowle).
Councillor G. M. Pidd (Crowle).
Councillor W. S. Cundall (Eastoft).
Councillor Mrs. J. M. Macgregor (Epworth).
Councillor J. Walne (Epworth).
Councillor H. A. Morris, C.C. (Epworth).
Councillor J. W. Halkon, J.P. (Garthorpe).
Councillor J. W. Bradbury (Haxey).
Councillor R. M. Whitehead (Haxey).
Councillor G. Chessman (Keadby).
Councillor R. E. Cock (Luddington).
Councillor W. A. Pyecroft (Owston Ferry).
Councillor S. T. Holmes (Owston Ferry).
Councillor W. Cockin (West Butterwick).
Councillor S. G. Slatford (Wroot).

Clerk of the Council:
S. W Chester, Esq., A.C.C.S.

Staff of Public Health Department:
Medical Officer of Health:
J. C. MACARTNEY,
M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Edin. Univ.), D.P.H. (Edin. & Glasgow).

Surveyor, Senior Sanitary Inspector & Water Engineer:
J. T. BATTYE, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
A. P. ALLEN, Cert. S.I.B.
(to 31st May, 1954).

K. C. BEETHAM, Cert. S.I.B.
(appointed August, 1954).

ISLE OF AXHOLME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Axholme Rural District Council.

1st August, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in reporting for the year 1954, which has been a very healthy one.

It will be seen that the Death Rate (9.27) and the Infantile Mortality Rate (20.16) are the lowest on record. These compare very favourably with the corresponding figures for England and Wales (11.3 and 25.5 respectively). The Infectious Diseases incidence was not of any serious significance. We had no cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis. All these factors point to a very good index of the social and welfare conditions of our area.

In conclusion I would like to thank all Councillors for their continued interest in Health matters. My gratitude is also due to Mr. Battye, Mr. Chester and their staffs for the great help given to me at all times.

Yours obediently,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), Ch.B., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	51,104 acres
Estimated Population	14,190
Rateable value at 31st March, 1955	£41,226
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£153

The essential industry of the District is agriculture, with the usual small industries ancillary to agriculture. The drainage of the area has resulted in this becoming a very fertile food production district.

A large grain silo and seed dressing depot and a grass drying plant are at Epworth. Also a very large electricity generating station has been erected at Keadby for the British Electricity Authority. Other industries are Tillage Works, Brickyards, Agricultural Machinery work, and Builders' businesses.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	133	115	248
Legitimate	126	109	235
Illegitimate	7	6	13
Still Births	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 18.01

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	79	58	137
Infants under 1 year	2	3	5

Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population 9.27

Infant Mortality Rate 20.16

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

BIRTHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
1954	133	115	248	18.01
1953	137	125	262	18.39
1952	140	106	246	18.54
1951	141	116	257	19.2
1950	125	133	258	18.2
1949	141	124	265	18.8
1948	145	110	255	18.58

DEATHS

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
1954	79	58	137	9.27
1953	70	78	148	10.39
1952	84	72	156	10.31
1951	107	86	193	12.6
1950	79	91	170	12.02
1949	89	93	182	12.2
1948	84	62	146	10.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Deaths of Infants under one year).

Year	Total	‡Mortality Rate
1954	5	20.16
1953	6	22.91
1952	12	48.7
1951	10	38.9
1950	14	54.2
1949	9	33.9
1948	7	27.4

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.2	11.3	25.5
Isle of Axholme R.D.	18.01	9.27	20.16

† Rates per 1,000 Home Population.
‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
Cancer	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	4	11
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	15	27
Coronary disease, angina	13	9	22
Heart disease	11	10	21
Other circulatory disease	6	1	7
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	1	2
Total	79	58	137

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., P.O. Box No. 26, County Offices, Lincoln. Many various facilities are available under the following headings:

Maternity Service.
Child Care.
Home Nursing.
Health Visitors.
Home Help.
Sick Room Requisites, appliances and other equipment.
Vaccination and Immunisation.
Mental Health.
Ambulance Service.
Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.
Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Council's Clinics function in the Isle of Axholme at the following times and places:

CROWLE. Women's Institute.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2 p.m. Fortnightly (Wednesdays).
Ante Natal Clinic.
10 a.m. Fortnightly (Wednesdays).

EPWORTH. Thurlow Methodist Schoolroom.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2 p.m. Fortnightly (Wednesdays).
Ante Natal Clinic.
10 a.m. Fortnightly (Wednesdays).

HAXEY. Memorial Hall.

Infant Welfare Centre.
10 a.m. Fortnightly (Thursdays).

KEADBY. St. John's Ambulance Hut.

Infant Welfare Centre.
2 p.m. Fortnightly (Tuesdays).

In addition to above, appointments can be arranged for school and pre-school children to be seen by specialists at Scunthorpe or Gainsborough Hospitals when necessary, in cases of eye, ear, nose and throat, rheumatism or heart conditions.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

General Medical Care.
The Family Doctor.
Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).
Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.
Dentistry.
Supplementary Eye Service.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board on a long term agreement. Distribution is effected by means of two water towers, one situated at Haxey and the other at Crowle. In addition to supplying the domestic needs of the District the Council provides water to industries, a large number of farms for cattle and market gardening, government camps, etc. Water is available and used in all the built-up portions of each parish, as well as to a large number of premises not in the built-up areas.

The average daily consumption is rapidly approaching the maximum quantity available. A proposal to increase the volume of supply has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government; completion of the proposal is anticipated about September next year, when the maximum quantity available will be 560-600,000 gallons per day.

Number of dwellinghouses	5,197
Number of these supplied from mains	4,319

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new sewers and pumping station at Keadby have been completed and are working satisfactorily. The sewage from this area is treated at the Althorpe Disposal Works.

Schemes for the Parishes of Belton, Epworth, Haxey and West Butterwick are being pressed forward for approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In each case every effort is being made to expedite the provision of sewerage facilities.

PUBLIC SCAVENGING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out fortnightly. Disposal by tipping on public tips continues at Crowle, Eastoft, Epworth and Haxey. Nightsoil collections are made weekly, disposal being chiefly by treatment at Sewage Works at Crowle and Sandtoft. With the exception of scattered outlying properties, both services operate throughout the area.

Private Septic Tanks, cesspools, etc., are emptied on request at a flat rate charge of 15/-.

RODENT CONTROL.

Number of properties inspected:

	Dwellings	Other Properties	Total
On complaint	16	11	27
Survey	128	70	198
Number treated by Local Authority:			
Major infestations	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor infestations	20	12	32
Number treated by occupiers.			
Major infestations	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor infestations	6	5	11

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

TOTAL OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 135

(1) By the Local Authority 85

(2) By other Local Authorities ..... Nil

(3) By other bodies or persons 50

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 75

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 180

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... Nil

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation. (Section 9. Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) ..... Nil

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be fit for Human habitation ..... Nil

2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 16

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil

(2) No. of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ..... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 14
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
  - (a) By owners 13
  - (b) By local authority in default of owners 1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936:
- (1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil
- (3) No. of dwellinghouses subject to undertakings or Closing Orders ..... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936:
- (1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... Nil
- (2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit ..... Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:
- (1) No. of Clearance Orders made (19 Houses) 4
- (2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance thereof ..... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.

(Excludes Temporary Dwellings).

(a) (1) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 25
- (2) No. of families dwelling therein 30
- (3) No. of persons dwelling therein 150

(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... Nil

(c) (1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2
- (2) No. of persons concerned in such cases 11

(d) No. of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ..... Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

(a) No. of applications for grants received 16

(b) No. of grants made 7

(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority Nil

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, Etc.

No. of site licences 31

No. of individual licences 37

No. of inspections during year — Sites 18 — Dwellings 21

No. of contraventions remedied ..... Nil

HOUSING PROGRAMME AT 31st MARCH, 1955.

	Post 1945 Houses Completed	Being Built	Total	Pre 1945 Houses	Tenders Obtained	Further Programme For 1955
Althorpe	100	—	100	10	—	—
Amcotts	16	—	16	2	—	—
Belton	65	2	67	30	—	6
Crowle	121	—	121	54	—	10
Eastoft	18	—	18	12	—	—
Epworth	93	4	97	46	—	14
Garthorpe	14	—	14	6	—	—
Haxey	68	—	68	40	4	—
Keadby	18	—	18	8	—	28
Luddington	16	—	16	40	—	5
Owston Ferry	32	—	32	22	—	—
West Butterwick	38	—	38	16	—	—
Wroot	14	—	14	18	—	6
	613	6	619	304	4	69

SECTION E.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Meat Inspection.

The following is a summary of carcases inspected and condemned:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	100	—	—	69	300
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .	8	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9%	—	—	—	1%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	17%	—	—	—	·66%

2. Food Premises.

Bakehouses:

Number in district	6
Number of inspections	14
Number of contraventions	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Milk Supplies:	Sterilised	Past	T.T.	N/D.
Number of distributors on register	21	13	2	6
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery (other than biological)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of samples satisfactory	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of inspections of dairy premises	Nil			
Contraventions remedied	Nil			

Ice Cream:

Number of manufacturers on register	Nil
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	32
Number of inspections of premises made	40
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil
Number of samples taken—Grade I	Nil
Grade II	Nil
Grade III	Nil
Grade IV	Nil

Meat Products:

Number of premises licensed for manufacture of meat products	26
Number of inspections made	30
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

Other Food Premises:

Number of inspections made	14
Number of contraventions found	Nil
Number of contraventions remedied	Nil

Other Foods Condemned:

11½ lbs. Corned Beef.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food:

Meat: To authorised processors.
Other foods: On Council's refuse tips.

It is very satisfactory to note that no cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year, which reflects creditably on the high standard of Food Inspection and Food Handling.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following diseases were notified during 1954:—

Scarlet Fever	8
Measles	72
Whooping Cough	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Diphtheria (Suspected)	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	4
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	1
Total	88

Particulars of diptheria immunisations, whooping cough immunisations, combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisations, vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out in the Isle of Axholme Rural District during 1954:

	Under five years of age at date of immunisation.	Between five and fourteen years of age at date of immunisation.	Boosting Doses.
Diphtheria Immunisations	116	28	149

	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	5	8	2	2	2	19
Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisations (under five years)	9	4	1	—	—	14

	Under One	1—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Vaccinations	20	4	2	6	32
Re-vaccinations	—	—	1	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases).

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Ages	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—
25—45	2	—	—	—
45—65	1	—	1	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
Total	4	—	1	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.
—	—	—	—

Total ..... Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	3	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	4	25	8	—	72
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria (Suspect)	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
Tuberculosis. Non-Pulm. ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	4	1	2	2	1	1	1	35	6	27	8	—	88

*Not confirmed.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Parish.	Fever Scarlet	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria (Suspect)	Tuberculosis Pulmonary	Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary
Belton	1	5	—	—	—	1	—
Burnham	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Crowle	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Epworth	3	26	—	1	—	—	—
Garthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gunthorpe	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Haxey	3	2	—	—	1*	1	—
Owston Ferry	—	25	—	—	—	—	—
Sandtoft	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Westwoodside	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	8	72	1	1	1	4	1

*Not confirmed.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948. PART I OF THE ACT.

1. **INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.**

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	18	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	35	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers, premises)	27	24	Nil	Nil
Total	107	77	Nil	Nil

2. **Cases in which DEFECTS were found** ..... Nil